

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Non-Final Office Action**

In the above-mentioned non-final Office Action, claims 479-482, 483-489, 491-499, 501-504, 506, 508-514, 524-529, 532-543 and 545-547 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,462,488 (McKillip) in view of U.S. Patent 5,407,718 (Popat); and claims 517-523 were rejected as being unpatentable over McKillip in view of Popat, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,198,275 (Klein). In response to the Office Action, claims 479-547 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 548-739 have been added.

Summary of the Personal Interview

The undersigned counsel for Applicants and Applicants' technical representative, Dr. Ron Ugolick, thank Examiner Chevalier for the courtesies extended to them during their personal interview of May 15, 2007. During that interview, Examiner Chevalier agreed that adding the following feature: "entire front faces of all of the printable business cards being free of any visible indicia" to claim 479 patentably distinguishes over McKillip.

Patentability of the New Claims

In response to the non-final Office Action, all of the currently pending claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 548-739 have been added. These claims include new independent claims 548, 590, 629, 664, 695 and 730, the patentability of each of which over McKillip is discussed below.

All of the Independent Claims

All of the independent claims include the structural feature that the laminate sheet construction is sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards. This is readily apparent for example from FIGS. 4 and 12 of the subject application. Dependent claims 552, 592, 630, 666, 697 and 734 include the additional feature that

the laminate sheet construction is 8½ by 11 inches or has A4 width and length dimensions. In contradistinction, McKillip discloses a different printing operation and therefore a different construction, namely a Z-fold. See the right sides of FIGS. 1, 8 and 12 for Z-folds and FIGS. 7 and 11 for tractor feeding perforations. Further, one would not modify the sheet construction and system of McKillip to change it from a high speed printing process to a slower sheet fed process, Applicants respectfully contend. See, e.g., McKillip, Col. 1, lines 45-49; and Col. 1, line 62 – Col. 2, line 2 (designed to run on high speed printers).

Independent Claim 548

Set forth below is a copy of new independent claim 548 with markings showing how it differs from cancelled independent claim 479. It can be seen that this claim includes the feature that "entire front faces of all of the printable business cards being free of any visible indicia." Examiner Chevalier in the above-mentioned personal interview said that this feature is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of McKillip. It is thus in condition for allowance.

548. (New) A printable business card sheet, comprising:

- a dry laminate sheet construction including a facestock sheet construction and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction;

- the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet;

- the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer;

- the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet;

- facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet;

- the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards;

- entire front faces of all of the printable business cards being free of any visible indicia;

- the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards;

- areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation;

a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation;

the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards whose back side surfaces are non-tacky; and

the printable business cards being arranged in a grid ~~on the facestock sheet construction~~, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge.

Independent Claim 590

Set forth below is a copy of new independent claim 590 with markings showing how it differs from cancelled independent claim 479. This claim includes the feature that the laminate sheet construction is free of adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet. This is disclosed in the present application for example in FIG. 4 between LDPE layer 204 and liner sheet 208. In contrast, McKillip discloses adhesive 28 in FIG. 6, for example.

590. (New) A printable business card sheet, comprising:

- a dry laminate sheet construction including a facestock sheet construction and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction;

- the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet;

- the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer;

- the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet;

- facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet;

- the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards;

- the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards;

- areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation;

- a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation;

the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards whose back side surfaces are non-tacky; and

the printable business cards being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge; and

the laminate sheet construction being free of adhesive between the film layer and the continuous sheet.

Independent Claim 629

Set forth below is a copy of new independent claim 629 with markings showing how it differs from cancelled independent claim 479. This claim is simply old dependent claim 547 rewritten in independent format. Referring to the last paragraph thereof, the film layer and the continuous sheet form a delamination interface for the printed business cards. This can be seen for example in FIG. 4 of the present application between LDPE layer 204 and liner sheet 208. In contrast, the delamination interface of McKillip is formed by the adhesive 28 as described and as illustrated in FIG 6.

629. (New) A printable business card sheet, comprising:

- a dry laminate sheet construction including a facestock sheet construction and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction;

- the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet;

- the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer;

- the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet;

- facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction to the back side but not through-cut through the continuous sheet;

- the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards;

- the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards;

- areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation;

a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation;
the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards whose back side surfaces are non-tacky; and

the printable business cards being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge; and

the film layer and the continuous sheet forming a delamination interface for the printed business cards.

Independent Claim 664

Set forth below is a copy of new independent claim 664 with markings showing how it differs from cancelled independent claim 479. This claim includes the feature that the border portion is free of weakened lines, as illustrated for example in FIG. 11 of the present application. In contrast, McKillip discloses weakened lines 30 (FIG. 11), 180 (FIG. 11) and 90 (FIG. 6). Claim 664 also includes the feature that the printable business card sheet is free of tractor-feed perforations, as can be seen in the drawings of the subject application. In contradistinction, McKillip discloses the presence and the need for tractor perforations, as shown by reference numeral 91 (FIGS. 6, 7 and 11) and discussed in the paragraph bridging columns 8 and 9.

664. (New) A printable business card sheet, comprising:

a dry laminate sheet construction including a facestock sheet construction and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction;

the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet;
the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer;

the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet;
facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet;

the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards;

the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards;

areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation;

a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation;

the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards whose back side surfaces are non-tacky; and

the printable business cards being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge;

the laminate sheet construction being rectangular with opposing side edges and opposing end edges;

the business cards being in a central area block of the facestock sheet;
a border portion of the laminate sheet construction surrounding the block and extending from ends of the through-cut lines to both of the side edges and to both of the end edges;

the border portion being free of weakened lines; and

the printable business card sheet being free of tractor-feed perforations.

Independent Claim 695

Set forth below is a copy of new independent claim 695 with markings showing how it differs from cancelled independent claim 479. This claim includes a grid of business cards wherein the cards in each column abut adjacent cards in that column and cards in each row abut adjacent cards in that row. This is pictured, for example, in FIGS. 5, 8 and 27, for example, of the subject application. McKillip does not disclose this "grid" of abutting cards; in fact, it does not disclose any two abutting cards. Similar to claim 666, discussed above, claim 695 includes that the printable business card sheet is free of tractor-free perforations.

695. (New) A printable business card sheet, comprising:

a dry laminate sheet construction including a facestock sheet construction and a continuous sheet attached to a back side of the facestock sheet construction;

the facestock sheet construction including a facestock sheet;

the dry laminate sheet construction including an internally positioned film layer;

the facestock sheet being a cardstock sheet;

facestock continuous through-cut lines through the facestock sheet construction but not through-cut through the continuous sheet;

the through-cut lines defining at least in part perimeter edges of printable business cards and a matrix waste portion around the printable business cards;

the dry laminate sheet construction being sized, constructed and capable of being sheet-fed through a printer or copier for a sheet-fed printing operation on the printable business cards;

areas of the continuous sheet being positioned over back sides of all of the through-cut lines and thereby the continuous sheet is structurally capable of holding the printable business cards and the matrix waste portion together during the printing operation;

a top surface of the facestock sheet construction being constructed and adapted to receive indicia printed on the top surface during the printing operation;

the continuous sheet and the through-cut lines being constructed and adapted to allow the business cards to be removed and separated from the continuous sheet and from the matrix waste portion after the printing operation into individual printed business cards whose back side surfaces are non-tacky; and

~~the printable business cards being arranged in a grid on the facestock sheet construction, the grid including a column of printable business cards, and adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the column directly abut one another and share a common edge;~~

the printable business cards being arranged in a grid;

the grid including a first column of the printable business cards and a second column of the printable business cards;

adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the first column directly abutting one another and sharing a common edge;

adjacent ones of the printable business cards in the second column directly abutting one another and sharing a common edge;

the first and second columns directly side-by-side abutting one another;

and

the printable business card sheet being free of tractor-feed perforations.

Independent Claim 730

New Independent claim 730 includes first and second printable business card sheets, the first of which is directly on top of and supported by the second in a stack – see the preamble which recites a "printable business card sheet stack." This stack, for example, can be in a printer or copier infeed tray, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 12, for example, or in retail packaging, as mentioned in paragraphs [0014], [0072], and [0073]

and shown in FIG. 25 at 680. Unlike the McKillip Z-fold construction, the stacked sheets of this claim are separate from and unconnected to one another. They are also free of tractor-feed perforations.

The Dependent Claims

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define over the citations of record including McKillip and McKillip in view of Popat and McKillip in view of Popat and Klein. Additionally, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Concluding Remarks

Accordingly, all of the claims now pending are in condition for allowance, and issuance of the Notice of Allowance at an early date is in order. If there are any remaining issues, Examiner Chevalier is encouraged to telephone the below-signed counsel for Applicants at (310) 785-5384 to seek to resolve them.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0440. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas N. Larson
Registration No. 29,401

Dated: July 11, 2007

JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MARMARO LLP
1900 Avenue of the Stars, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4308
Telephone: (310) 203-8080
Facsimile : (310) 712-3371